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Country CHIC

Three drivable destinations offer rustic elegance
and a natural backdrop for celebrating love.

By Amber Gibson

DETAILS, DETAILS

venues

I

BLACKBERRY FARM, TENNESSEE The Great Smoky Mountains provide an idyllic backdrop for bucolic romance at Blackberry Farm. The Relais & Chateaux property is renowned for its hospitality, and the staff thoughtfully anticipate any needs, like when they once supplied rain boots for guests in a case of inclement weather. Guests can play lawn games before enjoying a passed-canape reception each evening, followed by a dinner of foothills cuisine, with dishes like slow-cooked farm egg with smoked trout and crispy potatoes or steak with fingerling potatoes and locally foraged mushrooms. Ceremonies often take place on the main house lawn or the secluded Steps to Nowhere, and the boathouse on the pond or the Yallarhammer Pavilion at sunset are pretty places for pictures. A full buyout accommodates up to 150 wedding guests in 75 accommodations. *Weekend packages \$245,000-\$375,000, blackberryfarm.com*

The boathouse on Old Walland Pond is a picturesque setting for bridal party portraits, but its rustic picnic table can also be set for a small dinner party of farm-to-table cuisine.



2

THE FARM AT DOVER, WISCONSIN No longer a working farm, The Farm at Dover exists today solely as an event venue for up to 160 guests, with 20 acres of gardens, towering oaks, handcrafted willow arches and an impeccably remodeled bilevel 19th-century barn. With a robust network of photographers, videographers, caterers, florists, bakers and musicians, Dover is an ideal option for a turnkey celebration. The bridal party can get ready in the restored three-story Victorian home while the men suit up in a groom's cabin. The owners have past careers as prop and photo stylists, so every design detail is picture-perfect. *Wedding season May through October, Fridays and Sundays \$6,000, Saturdays and holiday weekends \$7,800 (exclusive of drinks and catering), thefarmatdover.com*

The recently remodeled barn features towering ceiling heights and an open-air, ivy-covered silo that makes for especially gorgeous drone photos.

3

ZINGERMAN'S CORNMAN FARMS, MICHIGAN Just outside Ann Arbor in Dexter, Mich., this 42-acre farm boasts a chef's garden, four-season barn, tent pavilion and farmhouse dating back to 1834. Chef Kieron Hales has worked at Michelin-starred restaurants—including Paul Bocuse in France and Dal Pescatore in Italy—and creates memorable menus for the couple and their guests that highlight native Michigan produce. Fun ways to customize culinary offerings include collaborating with Zingerman's Coffee Company on a personalized blend, making a branded chocolate bar for favors with Zingerman's Candy Manufactory or creating a custom gelato flavor with Zingerman's Creamery for dessert. *Wedding packages from \$2,950 for a small elopement to \$65,000 for a fully bespoke weekend, zingermancornmanfarms.com*

The four-season barn sets the scene for a rustic reception. Opposite page: Bespoke add-ons include a visit from the farm animals for wedding portraits.



BLACKBERRY FARM PHOTO BY BEALL + THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHY; THE FARM AT DOVER PHOTO BY C-MAE DESIGN; ZINGERMAN'S PHOTO BY LOILA GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY; OPPOSITE PAGE PHOTO BY JILL DEVRIES PHOTOGRAPHY